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IN THE US PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : George D. Chandley et al. September 24, 2002

For : TITANIUM ALUMINIDE MATERIAL
RESISTANT TO MOLTEN ALUMINUM

Serial No. : 09/740 708

Group: 1742

Filed : Dec. 19, 2000

Ex.: Combs

Confirmation No. 5022

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Dear Sir:

Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Substitute claims 1 and 16 as follows for pending claims of like number.

a1
1. (Amended) A method of increasing the service life of a titanium aluminide alloy in contact with a molten material comprising aluminum, comprising including in the titanium aluminide alloy a rare earth element in an effective amount to prolong resistance to attack of the alloy by the molten material and contacting said alloy with said molten material.

g2
16. (Amended) A method of prolonging resistance of a titanium aluminide alloy to a molten material comprising aluminum, comprising contacting the alloy for a time with said molten material, removing the alloy from contact with said molten material, heating the alloy in an oxygen-bearing atmosphere at elevated superambient temperature to form a surface oxide thereon, and re-contacting the alloy having the surface film thereon with said molten material.